

Newsletter

Alamo Area Atari User Assoc.

1987 Meeting Schedule:

March 27
April 24
May 22
June 26
July 24

August 28 ← Next Meeting!
September 25
October 23
November 27
December (TBD)

Meetings are held at 7:30 in the Cafeteria of
the San Antonio Savings Assoc (SASA) Bldg

A.A.A.U.A.
P.O. Box 79—1383
San Antonio, Texas
78279—1383

This issue is consolidated with
R.A.A.U.G
P.O. BOX 2611
UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148

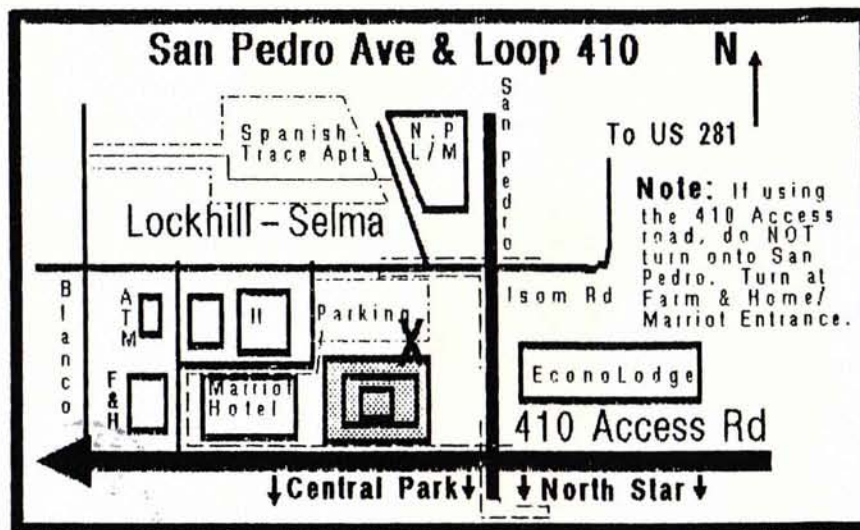
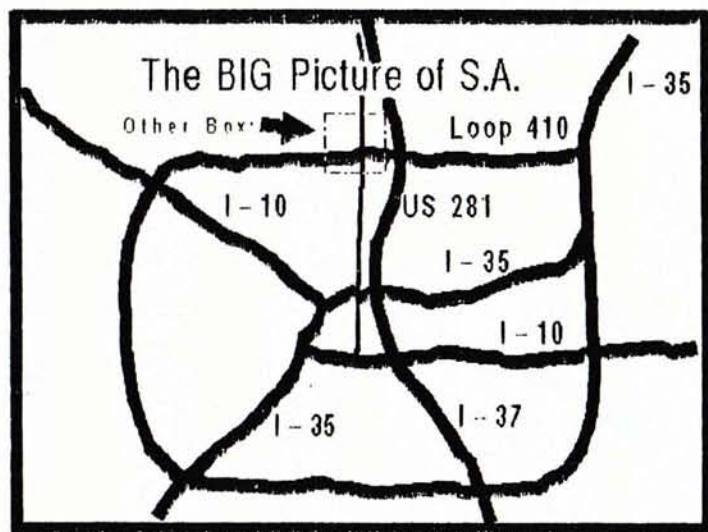


To:

SAN LEANDRO COMPUTER CLUB
P.O. BOX 1506
SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577-0374

First Class Mail

Alamo Area Atari User Association (AAAUA) (For Users of 8-bit Atari Computers)



Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30 P.M. at San Antonio Savings Association (SASA) Cafeteria. SASA is located at Loop 410 and San Pedro with Parking available on the Lockhill-Selma (North) side.

Enter Cafeteria DIRECTLY from Parking lot (NorthEast Corner: See "X" on the second Map shown above.)

SALE!-DISCOUNT!-SALE!

By Al Sherrill (AAAUA)

How often we hear those words. The bargain table in the department store is frequently a mad-house where one approaches at risk of life and limb. Everyone likes to save money - or so it seems. Well, here is your chance with computer wares.

We who are members of an active user's group have a definite bargaining edge. Computer hardware and software manufacturers recognize that. In numbers there is strength. A businessman (or lady) would much rather sell several of an item at one time than one of an item at several times. Consequently, they are willing to discount quantity sales. That only makes sense. So how about seeing if we can save a few precious dollars by purchasing as a group?

At the June meeting I told you about several products that it seemed we could get at a discounted price. Specifically these were the MICROMOD Turbobase business program, the Intellect Systems Rampak XE+, and the ICD products. These seem to be top-of-the-line items that should be given serious consideration by anyone who might be in the market for these capabilities. As I said in last month's newsletter, there is nothing wrong with the 8 bit machine. It still can do today what it did when it first came out; in fact, with the various add-ons it can give serious competition to systems costing many times over. And don't forget, we aren't taxed (yet) on money we don't spend!

Of the three companies named in the previous paragraph, I have been in contact with one since ATARIFEST. That is ICD. (If there is interest in other products, I would be happy to check into those, also. Just let me know where your interest lies.) ICD reps told me that a computer user's group could get approximately 20-30% discount on a group purchase, depending on the product. That is significant! ICD's products were mentioned briefly in last month's newsletter, and they are discussed in detail in the ATARI specific magazines, both in advertisements and product reviews. One product that has my attention is the Multi I/O by ICD Inc. I won't repeat here all that it can do (it does a lot!). But you can add 256K or 1Meg (yes 1Meg) ram to your ATARI 8-bit for \$199.95 and \$349.95 list price respectively. You can figure what a 20% discount would do to that! Interested? If so, call me and we'll get a group purchase together. If you're undecided or don't know, call me anyway. We'll talk about it. But don't wait too long. If everyone but you gets in on the purchase, we may have trouble getting another group purchase together for a while. You should have seen these products in action at ATARIFEST. You would be as excited as I am. Call me! - Al
(111, 492-6633

WHAT KIND OF MEMBER ARE YOU?

Reprinted from the August 1986 issue of DAL-ACE

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home-then criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to only just belong?
Think this over, member. You know what's right from wrong.
Are you an active member-or do you just belong?

8-BITS & PIECES

by Kim Beattie

Reprinted from the July '87 issue of THE ACCESS KEY,
Sacramento, CA.

It looks like some companies are still supporting the 8-bit machine, but it also looks like that despite its power and versatility, the only way the 8-bit will survive is as a "game machine". Even ATARI, with the introduction of the 65XE game system at CES, has decided that the game market is the only viable market for the 8-bit line of machines. Any support is better than no support, right? What does this mean? It means that the 8-bit line will continue to see some commercial support and that you, the 8-bit owner will not own an orphan computer. As long as ATARI continues to manufacture and sell the 65XE (and 130XE?), there will be somebody who will program for it. (And there will always be at least one place you can send your computer to get it fixed!)

On the other hand, if the new game machine system sells well, I suppose it's possible that the ATARI 8-bit machine will find its way into more homes than any other computer! While the commercial companies churn out game after game, it will be the individual programmer working at home that will supply the programs that prove the 8-bit is a "real" computer. There are many good (i.e. commercial quality) programs already available for the 8-bit in the public domain; EXPRESS!, SUPERKEY, TEXTPRO, and DAISY DOT just to name a few. They may be far and few between, but some of the best programs available for the ATARI 8-bit have been written since the introduction of the ST!

The 65XE game machine announced at the CES has a detachable keyboard, and includes MISSILE COMMAND in ROM, FLIGHT SIMULATOR II (in a 128K cartridge), and a game to use the light gun that comes with the new machine.

The following software titles were announced at the summer CES for the ATARI 8-bit:

AVON HILL: Clear for Action, Combat Chess
ELECTRONIC ARTS: Moebius, Ultima I (enhanced)
EPYX: Spy vs Spy III, Boulder Dash Constuction Set(!)
MICROPROSE: Pirates!
SSI: The Eternal Dagger

Let's hope some of these actually make it to the dealers shelves. (Especially the Boulder Dash Construction Set!).

There are some new programs on local shelves: BATTLECRUISER, GUDERIAN, REBEL AT CHICAMAUGA, AWARDWARE, BOP 'N WRESTLE, TRAIL BLAZER, and CYCLE KNIGHT. Some 8-bit programs I'd LIKE to see on local shelves are NEWS STATION, PUBLISHING PRO, AND NEWS STATION COMPANION (all by Reese Software).

As we all know, the 80 column card and the 1200 bps modem will be out "real soon now...". The latest date given by ATARI is late summer (this year?). The 3.5" drive is dead, and now ATARI will release a new 5.25" double sided, real double density drive, called the XF551. The new drive will be out...uh, real soon...

FRIENDLY PERSUASION

by Bill Horton

Reprinted from the May '87 issue of SLO-POKES, San Luis Obispo

Do you have a friend who is trying to convince himself to buy a personal computer? Here's a tip that may push him over the brink.

For a couple of years I considered buying one but, being an old engineer, I felt that I had to "justify" the purchase by some practical use. I knew copying everything in my file cabinet or my wife's recipe files would be a ridiculous waste of time. Computer games seemed to me to be just for kids. Keeping books for my small business on ledger sheets seemed much easier and more convenient than on a disk so that didn't justify the purchase

Still, computers held fascination, and I kept questioning friends who had them, trying to find some practical use that would justify getting one.

Finally, a friend made the statement that convinced me. He said "Bill, how do you justify buying a set of golf clubs or a boat or some fishing gear? If you want one and can afford it, just buy it!" That made sense to me so I did. Since then I've found a few "practical" uses (still not enough to "justify" it), but the fun I've had learning some basic

programming and playing those games I used to sneer at have made it one of the best investments I've ever made!

If you have a friend who, like me, feels he, must justify buying a computer, try giving him the same answer my friend gave me. He might buy you a 6-pack to thank you.

(Comment: Read he and him, also as she and her. Ed.)

AAAUA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Johnny Weissmuller

This is our first effort at a joint AAAUA-RAAUG newsletter. Because of the fact that some of our key volunteers are going on vacation and the deadline for the RAAUG mailing was fast approaching, this isn't as pretty as we would like it, but it IS.

As you AAAUA members remember, we discussed combining newsletters at our last meeting and agreed this was worth looking into. After discussion with the RAAUG management and a meeting of the AAAUA executive officers, it was decided to go ahead with this idea.

Our plan is this: a combined group of members will prepare the major "meat" of the newsletter. Because of our lower copying costs, AAAUA will reproduce enough copies for BOTH groups. Each group will then add their own mailing cover to the outside. These two sections then form a "joint" newsletter. As you know, our mailing cover folds with the Return & TO Address space opposite our 1987 meeting dates on the OUTSIDE, and a map to our meeting location on the INSIDE.

It is planned that each group will attach their own mailing labels and postage. The separate mailings will be timed to arrive just before the respective meetings to serve as a reminder.

As I said, this is a first effort so we are open to suggestions and hope to see improvements in future newsletters. (See other articles in this issue about OTHER group's newsletters.) In addition to suggestions, we are soliciting (as always) your articles and reviews to improve the overall quality of the newsletter. Let's hear from you!

P.S. In trying to produce this newsletter, we learned an interesting fact about two-column printing in AtariWriter Plus. Even if you use condensed print (about 17 characters per inch) you still specify your two left and right margins AS IF you were printing in Pica (10 characters per inch). In other words, our GLOBAL margins were 5,35 & 40,75. Instead

of printing 30 characters on the left half of the page, condensed print produces about 50 characters using this command. It only took Al Sherrill and me a half-hour to figure this out! Frank Hence, RAAUG President and AtariWriter Expert, was going to help in this FRANTIC exercise, but he was (conveniently) sent away for professional training. This is why this issue seems so heavily weighted to AAAUA -- it won't be this way next month, WILL IT FRANK! (The guy is out of town, what better time to take a cheap shot. Really, though Frank & I get along fine and I think newsletters need a little humor and a little controversy. Read on and you will see what I mean!)

We are NOT ALONE!
Johnny Weissmuller
AAAUA

We (AAAUA and RAAUG) may feel that we are alone in our problems in keeping Atari groups alive (and publishing), but it just ain't so. As you AAAUA members know, we haven't had a regular newsletter since February. In March, I personally did a quick cut-and-paste; in April I sent a postcard to members; in May I sent NOTHING. By June members became upset and Thelma Sunvision got a newsletter put together and mailed. It's just too much work for one person (trust me on that), so I'm glad we are moving forward on this joint letter approach. I digress (but only slightly).

As you may know, Atari User Groups "Exchange" newsletters, i.e. If you mail me one, I mail you one -- totally without dues or other compensation. The following was an insert in an "Exchange" newsletter we received from Columbus, Ohio (Fuji Facts, May 1987):

*To: All Newsletter Editors
From: Warren Lieuallen
Editor, Fuji Facts

First of all, let me apologize for our recent lack of newsletters. As with several other users' groups around the country, earlier this year we found ourselves in some serious financial difficulty. In short, we could no longer afford the expense of producing our monthly newsletter (24 pages, offset printing, etc. brought the cost to \$225/month!). We have continued to produce a newsletter, in an eight page format, but restricted its circulation to those able to pick them up at our meetings. Most of you were not able to make it to Columbus every month, so you've missed getting Fuji Facts!

However, our recovery has begun and, although the newsletter is in an eight page, photocopied format, we have begun

our monthly mailings once again. I apologize for our several month absence, and extend my sincerest thanks to those of you that continued to send us your newsletters, despite the one-sidedness of the exchange.

This brings me to my second point. I have incorporated our exchange listing into SynFile+, and am generating mailing labels with this program. You will notice printed on your label the last issue of your newsletter that we have received. If a "00/00" is printed there, it means that although we have gotten newsletters from you in the past, we have not received one in the last two or three months -- hopefully you are not experiencing similar difficulties!

Thank you very much for your patience, cooperation and support."

(Note: Our AAAUA label had 03/87 as the most recent issue. --Johnny).

Up from the Ashes
Johnny Weissmuller
AAAUA

The phoenix is a type of a bird for those of you who don't follow folklore or visit video arcades. As the legend goes, when a phoenix grows old and weary, it falls from sky, crashes, and, in burst of ENERGY, literally burns. A new, younger, more energetic phoenix is magically born and rises from the flame and ashes. Therein lies a lesson for user groups and their publications on the skids.

The previous article was based on an enclosure in the May Exchange Issue of Fuji Facts (an apology). This excerpt is from a good-looking, July 1987 issue of Fuji Facts. This excerpt is about the MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE. The Randolph Newsletter has frequently re-printed MID-MICHIGAN User Group articles, and I have found them to be excellent (Yes, I am a member of BOTH groups and get both newsletters.)

Note that this was a Guest Editorial in Fuji Facts, and I am transcribing it without editorial comments ON MY PART. (You will get those AFTER the entire article, as I do NOT agree with many points cited herein.) So, from where you see ===START=== until you see ===END===, this is lifted directly from Fuji Facts:

===START===
Guest Editorial
MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE
From the Publisher, John Nagy
(C.H.A.O.S. BBS: (517) 371-1106)

(The following is an article which I downloaded from

CompuServe. While I have not yet seen a copy of the Mid-Michigan Atari Magazine, I have heard many good things about it. Many of the ideas expressed in this article are similar to ones I had when I started publishing Fuji Facts last September (I just never wrote my ideas down!). I would very much appreciate some feedback on this. These last few months, except for the mad rush at the meetings to get your paws on it, there has been very little interest expressed in our newsletter. I am proud of Fuji Facts, and want to make it the best possible newsletter. However, I'm only one guy, and not a writer or graphic artist at that! If you are satisfied with the status quo, then I will continue as I have, putting out a promising but never quite professional newsletter. If you like the sound of the following article and would like to improve Fuji Facts, please let me know, and together, we'll see what we can do. Thank you for your cooperation and tolerance. -Ed.)

Thanks for your interest in MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE. Here's some information on where we came from, who we are, and what we are trying to do.

Lansing's ATARI club, the Capitol Hill Atari Owners' Club (C.H.A.O.S.), started MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE in July, 1986. For several years, computer club magazine ENERGY (put out by the Michigan Computer Consortium, Lansing area clubs of several brands). Despite being one of the founding groups of the Consortium and ENERGY magazine, C.H.A.O.S. was certain that now it could do more for its members than settling for the 5-6 pages afforded ATARI by the 20-page ENERGY magazine.

We have seen exchange newsletters from a hundred other ATARI clubs from around the country, and learned from what we liked and disliked about ENERGY and all the other newsletters. Several things seemed to be critical: APPEARANCE, CONCEPT, and CONTENT. And one more: doing it all with VOLUNTEERS at a low enough production cost to be affordable by the club.

The way a newsletter looks affects everything inside. We get one particular fully-professional quality exchange letter each month -- glossy paper, all typeset, classy art direction, the full shot. It has almost NEVER had an article in it that I thought was even worth the time I took to read it, but that doesn't keep it from being one of the most memorable ATARI group newsletters I have seen. Several other newsletters regularly have well-written articles that are of national magazine quality, but appear in a barely-readable, poorly reproduced package, produced using nine different printer fonts and styles. Don't ask me the club or magazine names, because I can't remember most of them. The content was defeated by the package.

Many newsletters we get are simply a collection of what

the editor could find in time for the deadline. Hers's a VERY typical breakdown:

- * About Ten pages total (five sheets, two sides, photocopied, corner or center stapled and folded).
- * 2 1/2 pages ANTIC ONLINE, reprinted verbatim from CompuServe.
- * Two pages of club information, including standard parts about the club and membership, plus a report of current business.
- * One page of the president raking over the membership for volunteers for various projects that are not being done.
- * One page of the Editor grouching about how nobody is contributing articles for the newsletter.
- * A blank (or mostly blank) page often with a comment like "Your article here" in it.
- * A page that is mostly a Koala graphic dump (of a picture you've seen before, in color, and you remember it looking better than it does in the newsletter).
- * 2 1/2 pages including one and occasionally two of: an article detailing the exact theory, exhaustive method, and full code to execute a substitute recursive data-shift byte mask using FORTH; a five-column program listing in BASIC; straight text dumps reprinting a BBS message base; reprinted articles clipped right out of the original and pasted on the page; and rarely an actual gem of an original locally written article or review.
- * All presented in no particular order.
- * (Although this is a little exaggerated, in a cynical sort of way, it is actually not far from the truth - Ed.)

Several of the C.H.A.O.S. members, myself included, knew it didn't have to be that way. From our experience with ENERGY, we knew that a better, larger product could be made if the efforts, money, and circulation of several groups with similar interest were pooled. We felt a newsletter of dissimilar computer clubs in one city didn't work for us, but that an all-Atari collection of clubs from different cities could work great.

MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE (MMAM) was born. I took the general development, printing, and editing duties, Leo Sell helped by writing and looking for quality reprintable articles, and Jeff Bone worked hard on appearance, layout and art. We each helped get advertisers.

By the time we printed our second issue in August, we were ready to try to recruit other clubs. We had developed a format, a set of continuing columns and an attractive, orderly presentation laid out in a consistent, orderly fashion. We had a booklet form, professionally reproduced, of 28 pages or more. We scorned "printouts" of graphic screens unless to illustrate an important part of an article. Only ONE printer and font was used to generate all articles.

We re-keyed quality articles from other newsletters to get them into our page style and font. ANTIC ONLINE was used but heavily excerpted to include only the meat. Heavily technical articles were avoided unless balanced by good beginner pieces. TYPE-IN programs over a half column long were skipped. Variety, articles of no more than 2 pages, a focus on general interest rather than specialities were the watchwords. Full integration of the 8- and 16-bit machine information was intentional.

The formula worked. The magazine has received raves from local and national computer columnists. We are widely quoted and reprinted (recently in ANTIC and in FAMILY COMPUTING). Since August, at least one additional ATARI user group has joined our Magazine each month. They contribute club-specific pages plus feature articles and advertising. We enter 1987 prepared to put out a 40+ page magazine each month to a subscriber base of over 700 ATARI users, plus counter sales at many locations. Richard and Judy Barnes have joined our effort and handle most of the production and editing co-ordination. Marvin Goldstein and Harmon Everett each are involved in sales and business. I am (give or take) "Publisher" with and for C.H.A.O.S., handling printing and distribution arrangements as well as new club contacts, promotions, and policy. Each of the "member" clubs have a local editor. For an all-volunteer non-profit effort, things are sailing.

At this point, several problems and possibilities present themselves. These include UNDERFUNDING vs OVERSUPPLY OF MATERIAL, and BIT POLITICS.

As we expand into much of the state, our circulation makes us a very attractive vehicle for national advertising. Our rates are very reasonable, about the same as many club newsletters that reach 25% of the number that receive MMAM. Yet, we are short of enough advertising to produce the size magazine we would like.

At this writing, Rich has at least ten articles waiting for a chance to see print. Despite generally few feature contributions from each club, the combined total (plus quality reprint material) makes an outstanding pool of material. Each month we have had to throw away articles that have gone out of date while waiting for room. This seems an unbelievable thing to complain about considering the "no material" chant that most newsletters give. We are only sorry that we don't have the revenue to support the 40-48 pages a month that we could easily fill with prime articles.

Our policy has been to keep the cost of having MMAM as each club's newsletter competitive with the cost of producing a small local one. We depend on the sales of the ads that ly pay for the magazine.

Lastly, we are being asked (by some groups that are considering joining in the magazine) to make some changes in the structure of MMAM. Specifically, it is suggested that we divide the 8-bit and 16-bit articles into separate sections, or even eliminate one or the other machine. This was the ANTIC and ANALOG approach, and now they are drawing fire for it from both sides of the Street. I personally am convinced that "BIT POLITICS", the split between the 8- and 16-bit owners, is the single biggest threat to the future success of both groups in organized clubs.

While I don't pretend to believe that exclusive ST owners ever will seriously be interested in 8-bit specific information or user tips, it is clear that nearly ALL 8-bit owners are interested in knowing what is developing for the ST series. We have typically run about 30% 8-bit specific articles, about 20% ST specific, and the remainder has been ATARI corporate or industry information and "neutral" general feature articles. With a mix like that, to split the ST into a section of its own would make its 20% look like we are ignoring it. In reality, 70% of every issue is for the ST reader, and 80% is for the 8-bit reader. Since the 8-bit owners currently outnumber the ST owners, we feel that we are supplying a satisfying mix of useful information to BOTH sets of users in our many pages.

It will remain the policy of MMAM to resist the split-up of the ATARI interest groups. We intend to continue to do as much as possible to satisfy all ATARI computer users.

The future DOES look good for MMAM. I am very proud of all of the people that have made our magazine the fastest growing and best new ATARI publication. I don't think we could get much more enthusiasm from some of them if we DID pay them! The product, too, is VERY satisfying. There is NO newsletter or magazine (non-profit or commercial) that has more GOOD, READABLE articles per page of print than ours. The cost vs. return to each club is unparalleled by any single group newsletter. And that sincerest of compliments, imitation, has begun to appear in some other states.

We are happy with our progress. If we can meet our advertising requirements, MID-MICHIGAN ATARI MAGAZINE will continue to grow, to improve, and to be worth the work.

====END====

(Editorial Comments on the Above)

It's me, Johnny, again. I swear, my fingers are going to fall-off after typing all this, but it was an extremely interesting article, especially about the "typical" newsletter.

Let me begin with an ironic observation. (This may be the only humorous thing to follow. Typing, as I am at 3 AM on a work night, strange things may seem funny to me). In talking about his limiting "too technical" articles, he uses a long list of techie terms which includes "RECURSIVE". For those of you who don't know about "recursion", it means having a program or subroutine which "calls itself" to carry-out its assigned task. The humor that I see in this is that this follow-on is an Editorial on an Editorial, about an Editorial in an issue of a newsletter focused on discussing newsletters. (If you don't find this amusing, don't worry, I may not either come sunrise).

Anyway, as you may recall, this reprint began with the Fuji Facts Editor asking for volunteers to raise the quality of their newsletter to the "professional" level. I personally think that the quality of the product as it stands is excellent for a NEWSLETTER.

An important point I want to make is the difference between a NEWSLETTER and a MAGAZINE. To my mind, a newsletter is intended to be a vehicle for quick transmission of within-club information as well as a timely reminder of the up-coming meeting. Articles should be solicited from members and printed AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, because much of this information is TIME CRITICAL and the only thing worse than having an article rejected is having someone "sit-on-it" indefinitely. One of my business partners writes for national computer magazines and the other edits a "quality" newsletter and I know about the emotional drain that each inflicts on people. Newsletters should encourage and reward (as soon as possible) any contribution made by any member. MAGAZINES, on the other hand, have a different purpose.

I am glad that they decided to call their product a magazine, rather than a newsletter. In this case, I see MMAM very much like a professional journal in say, psychology or physics. Journals tend to worry about maintaining high standards in such areas as APPEARANCE, CONCEPT, and CONTENT, and what finally gets into those limited pages, is typically of "national" quality. But all those reviews and screenings and hold-ups take up time. Quality has its price -- and for some requirements, that price is well worth paying. -I can't wait to subscribe to MMAM and I think the clubs (AAAUA & RAAUG) should explore joining.

I have some deep-seated misgivings, however. First, although many names are mentioned and he uses the word "WE" alot, I sense we are seeing a personal crusader here. Enthusiasm is great--but it is not boundless.

My business partner enthusiastically undertook up-grading the quality of his group's newsletter. We are now six months

down the road and everyone loves Mike's newsletter. The problem is that Mike has reached burnout, and Mike is not a phoenix. (And you wonder why I won't be President AND Newsletter Editor!)

Personally, I would rather pay a reasonable price for a quality product if it means that the product will continue to be available indefinitely because it is generated by a sufficient staff of people and no one is emotionally sacrificed each month to meet deadlines. Maintaining quality requires the oversight of a dedicated crusader, but they typically become hard to work for, especially for free.

A less nebulous criticism is aimed at what he calls "BIT POLITICS." That is a cute term, but I am on the other side of the fence from him. I object to having my time wasted. I am an 8-bit user and I have NO INTEREST in new products for the ST, contrary to his statement. Our AAAUA group formally spun-off the ST group in town with a large drop in members, funding and expertise. I still believe that it was the right move.

Floyd Blunk is perhaps one of the biggest Atari supporters in part of the country. I originally met Floyd at a TRS-80 computer user group, back when we both were into Tandy/Radio Shacks. As Tandy came out with newer and less compatible machines, the user group became more and more fragmented until I couldn't stand wasting so much of my time on reviews of things I couldn't use with my computer. That group talked of a split, but they didn't, so I did.

I saw the same thing happening all over again with the STs. The most technically advanced members just "had to have" the latest computer, even if it was (from my perspective) "out of this world." Once they bought, you had the natural need to justify and convert those who have not yet seen the light. It was a real strain putting up with that when I am perfectly happy with my trusty Atari 800, 4-800XLs, and 2-400s.

To make matters worse, many third party manufacturers saw the handwriting on the wall, and switched from 8-bit products to 16-bit products. If you wanted to do new product reviews in a combined group, guess what most of the demos were on? No, I am definitely in favor of separate groups.

In terms of magazines, it is irritating to leaf through and find an ad, only to discover that it won't run on your machine. If that type of frustration becomes routine, I can live without that magazine. If they must have a mixed magazine, at least they should put the ST stuff in the FRONT, common material (after an obvious divider) in the middle, and 8-bit information in the back. I don't mind taking a back seat, as long as it is a RESERVED seat.

And that's the way I see it as of 4:55 AM on 4 August. --
Johnny

AAUA Disk Library Index Update

Good news. The Index of our Disk Library has been updated. This was expedited by making changes to the Inventory program we use. This program is from the Eugene ACE group. Changes were made to immediately show the lowest and highest disk numbers in the index as soon as it is loaded. Program Type codes were added, changed, and made available from online help commands. "T" used to mean Tutorial. All "T"s have been changed to "I" for Instructional and "T" is now used for Telecommunications. To give you an idea of the difference here are some OLD-NEW statistics for Public Domain software that shows the number of FILES indexed.

OLD	NEW	Disk-ID	Subject
12	26	B01-B03	Business
42	110	E01-E06	Education
8	8	H01	Household
36	36	L01-L06	Languages
243*	206	P01-P19	Applications (*File Error)
134	157	U01-U12	Utilities
	178	D01-D06	Demos
210	216	G01-G23	Games
96	162	K01-K17	Pictures/Icons
210	232	M01-M17	Music

"I B-I-G NEWS"

Network: Atari Update

Welcome Aboard The Ride That Lasts Forever! Network:
Atari HD Express! BBS.

Network: Atari Is now officially on-line. For those of
you that don't have the numbers, here goes.

Voice: 512-662-9764 (Business hours are 4pm to 10pm, since
I'm working the grave yard shift at present).

Modem: 512-662-9765 (Please don't call my voice line at
3am mistaking it for the BBS).

Let's a little historical review about the system. We've

been on-line since 1982, and have continually expanded to the
current size we are at now. This is 120+ Megabytes, and 2400
baud. Of course, we're also 24 hours.

The sysop is me, Chuck Leazott, AKA: Mister <Z> Hissself.

I started Atari Biz because of the availability of
equipment, and of course, the price. It's ease of use,
'Specially with SpartaDOS, was another contributing factor.

At any rate, to make a short story long, The BBS has been
operating in Illinois, and has done quite well. We're
thinking about running another line into the system, but only
time will tell how feasible that will be. The BBS runs on
donations from users, and simply put...the more donations we
get, the more we can offer the users. I've been asked why I
don't charge for services, and my reply is basically this.
"Why? My user donations keep me alive. Users donate in many
ways, from uploads to monetary donations."

Again, I've been on-line for quite some time, and have a
fairly good grasp of user/sysop etiquette.

If you want/need something, I'll do my best to get it for
you. We have some rules on the board, but nothing outta the
ordinary. Things like "Absolutely NO Pirating!" or even the
discussion of such. We can all live with that.

My attitude to this is I don't care one way or the other
if you do it, as long as I'm not involved. I don't like it,
but neither can I stop it...so you handle it the best way you
can.

The BBS system is configured with the following
Hard/Software:

<1> 800 XL (256k Rambo Upgrade).
Backup System is the 130 XE (320k Upgrade)

<2> ICD R-TimeB Cartridge

<3> ICD Multi I/O (1 MEG Version)

<4> Oasis BBS Software (For now). Will probably go back to
Express! when the new 850 version is completed.

<5> 4 - 30 Meg Seagate St-238 HD's (all on-line).

<6> Us Robotics 2400 Baud Courier Modem (perfecto).

The list goes on, but that should be sufficient for you
all to see what is available.

Along with this BBS system, I've brought an ICD Dealership



with me. My prices (until 1 October) are the lowest available almost anywhere. I suggest you take advantage of these low prices, before they go up.

Also, We have the Hard Disk User Group (HDUG). This group discusses the hard disk configurations, and most anything about HD's. Membership is \$18.00 P/year. There is a quarterly Newsletter that comes with membership, and within it, there are many special deals on hardware and software. Interested? Great!

Well, enough about this system for this month. I'll be writing more in the coming months with new things on the system.

It's nice to finally be settled in San Antonio, and I've already met quite a few good folks. Hopefully I'll get the opportunity to meet some more. If you see me walkin' around, say... "Hey Z! What's Happenin'?"

Mister <Z> Hissel



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SirPRIZE!

Johnny Weissmuller
AAAU

It was quite a surprise to find that the nation's biggest Atari Public Domain Software Bulletin Board System AND a new ICD dealership just landed here in good ol' SA! Welcome aboard to you, Mister Z, and we hope to be Z-ing more of you (at both User Group meetings).

In honor of your arrival, we are dusting off some "DOOR PRIZE" material that has been sitting around and we will begin awarding door prizes starting with our AAUA meeting on 28 August.

Speaking of prizes, I had thought about having a contest for

naming our new combined Newsletter, but I fell in love with one of my own suggestions: A-RACE. A-RACE gives the flavor of the fact that we are still separate groups (competing for members), but we can cooperate enough to "do the right thing" for our respective memberships. For you RAAUG folks, I suggested A-RACE in an AAUA newsletter in April. It stands for Alamo-Randolph Atari Computer Enthusiasts. If the order of the names bothers you, I guess we could call it A!RACE for ATARI! Randolph & Alamo Computer Enthusiasts. But before we go and spend time designing a banner page, let's discuss the name, OK?


AAUA Member Citations

If I am to believe my own Editorial above, we need to recognize those members who make a contribution as soon as possible. Our thanks this month goes to Lou Kelley for his excellent work in putting together a new "SURVIVAL DISK." Several "test" copies were distributed and we hope to get feedback from both the testers and the magazines for the required permissions.

Also, Al Sherrill has been a driving force in getting this newsletter out, and he deserves our congratulations. I tried to pin a ribbon on him that says "NEWSLETTER EDITOR", but he managed to out maneuver me (if you knew how SMALL my workroom is, you would realize how agile Al must be!)

Every month, Thelma Sunvision, takes care of reproducing the newsletters, folding and posting them. We tend to take for granted the most reliable members and, of course, we shouldn't. Thank you Thelma, and take your vacation -- you've earned it.


-- Johnny




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